



**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)  
Joint Powers Authority  
MINUTES**

**DATE**

**Monday, May 11, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board was held on Monday, May 11, 2020 via teleconference/videoconference and was called to order by Chair Menetrey at 1:07 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, Chair  
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor, Vice Chair  
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor  
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor  
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor  
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor  
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman  
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Peggy Arnest, Fresno Council of Governments  
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures  
Michael Draper, Mono County LTC  
Scott Gediman, Yosemite National Park  
Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC  
Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park  
Jamie Richards, Yosemite National Park  
Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventures  
Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transportation Council

**STAFF PRESENT**

Christine Chavez, Transit Manager  
Xavier Garcia, Transit Administrative Assistant  
Nav Bagri, Finance Director  
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director  
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel  
Adam Perez, Multimedia Specialist  
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

## **1. Introductions**

Chair Menetrey led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

## **2. Public Comment**

Curtis Riggs provided a brief history of public transit to Yosemite. He commented that the YARTS bus system is not only a vital public transit resource for the Park and the gateway communities, but it has also proven to be a tool to help local economies recover in difficult circumstances.

## **3. Minutes of the April 27, 2020 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting**

No questions. So noted.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 YARTS Joint Powers Authority regular meeting.

Seconded by Director Smallcombe.

**Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe**

**Noes - None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **4. COVID-19 Situational Update**

### **a. Update from National Park Service on Park Closure Status**

Jamie Richards reported that Yosemite National Park is working on its phased re-opening plan and is coordinating with the Yosemite Gateway Area Coordination Team to determine how best to approach this phased re-opening. Specific details about this plan are not currently available, but the board will be updated as information becomes available.

Kathleen Morse added that the Park is working closely with its neighboring counties to determine what the public health service guidelines will be for re-opening. The Park is also limited on the number of employees it can allow back for the summer due to housing and budget constraints.

Director Silveira asked if the Park is taking advantage of the reduced traffic to work on roadwork projects.

Kathleen Morse replied that the contracts for many of those projects are complex and require a lot of lead time, so accelerating them is not always an option. Roadwork will continue as programmed throughout the summer. The Park is also using this time of reduced traffic to get a sense of how bicycles can move better throughout the Park.

Director McDaniel asked how much lead time will be given before the Park re-opens.

Scott Gediman replied that the Park will issue a news release 14-days prior to the Park re-opening.

Kathleen Morse asked if YARTS has a plan to operate under the new health and safety constraints when regular service resumes.

Stacie Guzman replied that staff is determining options for how to operate under social distancing requirements and will present those options to the board at the next meeting. She also asked if the Park's Valley Shuttle service is planning to operate when the Park re-opens.

Kathleen Morse responded that the Park is still debating whether to operate the Valley Shuttle. She asked for staff to consider using YARTS to supplement point-to-point transportation within the valley.

**b. YARTS Operations in Response to COVID-19**

Christine Chavez presented a PowerPoint with ridership data and an overview of the budget through May 11, 2020.

Director McDaniel asked if Park employees who have been relocated outside of the Park would be able to use YARTS to commute to work.

Stacie Guzman replied that if the Park re-opens and allows YARTS to travel into the Park, then those employees could use YARTS for their commute. Staff is still working on how to ensure proper social distancing requirements are adhered to.

Christine Chavez commented that there continues to be a need for transportation into the Park by employees but, as a public transit agency, YARTS cannot provide rides for specific groups that are not available to the public. Any type of privatized service would need to be paid for through funding sources other than the state/federal grants that YARTS receives.

Stacie Guzman stated that staff's recommendation is to continue operating at the current service level. She also asked if the board would prefer to hold an additional meeting in two weeks that would take place prior to the next scheduled meeting on June 8, 2020.

Director Smallcombe asked if staff has a concept to address having a required written worksite specific plan that is complementary to the YARTS Emergency Operations Plan.

Stacie Guzman replied that a new chapter would need to be added to the YARTS Emergency Operations Plan that is specific about operating under this type of situation.

Christine Chavez added that staff will develop the revised YARTS Emergency Operations Plan and work with VIA to develop a plan to implement the new guidelines on the buses.

Curtis Riggs commented that the current service levels may trigger a discussion for a change in rate and he will work with staff to address that.

Director McDaniel moved to direct staff to hold an additional meeting in two weeks and:

1. Maintain the Highway 140 service levels at Minimum Schedule II and;
2. Delay the roll-out of summer service.

Seconded by Director Corless.

**Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe**

**Noes - None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Management Report**

Stacie Dabbs asked the board to decide on a date for the next meeting. After a general discussion, Director Smallcombe moved to hold the next meeting on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

**Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe**

**Noes - None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Christine Chavez reported that the agency hired Kate Molthen as its new Assistant Transit Manager and her first day will be May 18, 2020.

**6. National Park Service Report**

Please refer to Item 4a – Update from National Park Service on Park Closure Status.

**7. Board Member Remarks**

Director Smallcombe mentioned that Mariposa County is offering COVID-19 testing to all who are interested. You do not have to be a resident of Mariposa County to receive a test. Tests are conducted by appointment only and the testing site is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling (888) 634-1123.

**8. Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 2:07 p.m.**